
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MODELING TASK FORCE
September 22, 2010

MINUTES

**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE
MODELING TASK FORCE.**

The Modeling Task Force held its meeting at SCAG's Main Office in Los Angeles on September 22, 2010.

Members Present:

Tim Byrne	PB World
Marlie Whiteman	Urban Crossroads
Robert Farley	Metro
Paul Burke	Metro
Eric Bierce	Cambridge Systematics
Jason Xu	KOA Corporation
Ying Zhu	Metro
Yali Chen	UCSB
Ting Lei	UCSB
Karl Petty	BTS, Inc.
Rafael Cobian	Fehr & Peers
Jonathan Osborne	Caltrans
Steve Smith	SANBAG

SCAG staff present:

Sungsu Yoon
Hao Cheng
Yongping Zhang
Guoxiong Huang
Jonathan Nadler
Mana Sangkapichai
Sreedhar Nambisan (via phone)
Cheryl Leising (via phone)

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Robert Farley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM and introductions were made.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Items

The July 28, 2010 Meeting Minutes were approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 City of Los Angeles ATSAC Project

Mr. Karl Petty from Berkeley Transportation Systems, Inc. provided an overview of the LADOT Arterial Network Traffic Data Visualization Project. Goals of the project are 1) to store the LADOT detector data (ATSAC data) in the Performance Measurement System (PeMS) for the purpose of long term analysis and planning studies, 2) to map detectors to GIS to give spatial/topological context to the data, 3) to provide reporting and visualizations over temporal and spatial ranges, and 4) to identify data quality issues.

LADOT PeMS is a real-time archive data management system that collects many types of detailed raw data in real-time and in batch mode. The LADOT PeMS challenges are 1) the scale is very large consisting of 18,000+ detectors, 2) detectors weren't mapped in GIS links, and 3) merging disparate GIS data sources and 4) merging ATSAC interchange configurations.

The PeMS system went live on May 13, 2010. This was a year long project that started in June, 2009. ATSAC Systems 1-15 are live and sending data. To apply for an account, you can use the "Apply" link on the front page.

The PowerPoint presentation is available at <http://www.scag.ca.gov/modeling/mtf/index.htm>

4.2 Year 2008 Model Validation Program

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Guoxiong Huang, SCAG's Chief Modeler, updated and reported on Year 2008 Model Validation Program. The first part of the presentation was an overview of the model development program for the 2008 model validation and 2012 RTP, focusing on the objectives, accomplishments and schedules. The second portion of the presentation reported on the major updates to the trip based model.

The purpose of the Year 2008 model validation is to develop a base year model for the analysis of the 2012 RTP and related programs, including conformity analysis and the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Guoxiong listed and discussed the completed and ongoing projects including: SCAG New Tiered Zone System, Regional Highway Network Inventory, Base Year Highway Network, Transit LOS Data Collection, Base Year Transit Network, Arterial Speed Study, Screenline Traffic Count, and the Sustainability Tool. The schedule calls for completion of the preliminary trip based model in January 2011, a peer review in the Spring 2011, and the Final Model Validation Report completed June 2011.

In part two of the presentation, Guoxiong described the technical methodologies for the various model improvements of the trip-base model and the Heavy-Duty Truck (HDT) Model. The objectives are to improve sensitivity to smart growth, improve sensitivity to road pricing, improve transit forecasting, improve traffic assignment, improve high-speed rail forecasting, improve the representation of travel markets, and update the HDT Model.

On-going model development and validation efforts and next steps include the following:

- 1) Tier 1 Validation
 - i) Re-calibrate the destination choice Models
 - ii) Refine mode choice calibration
 - iii) Develop intra-regional High Speed Rail capability
- 2) Tier 2 Implementation
 - i) Finalize 2000 and 2008 model inputs
 - ii) Update mode choice applications
 - iii) Link to statewide High Speed Rail forecasts
- 3) Tier 2 Validation
 - i) Refine overall calibration and validation
 - ii) Perform sensitivity testing

For further information or to view the presentation, the PowerPoint presentation is available at:
<http://www.scag.ca.gov/modeling/mtf/index.htm>

4.3 SCAG Activity Based Model (SIMAGENT)

Guoxiong Huang continued with an update on the Activity Based Model, which will be used for the scenario analysis for the 2012 RTP. SCAG contracted with UC Santa Barbara, University of Texas at Austin and Arizona State University, Tempe who are experts in the field to serve as consultants on this project. PopGen, the software to simulate the population of an area, was developed at ASU. CEMDAP and CEMSELTs are software packages that were developed at University of Texas, Austin and applied in Dallas Fort Worth area.

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The trip-based model will be used for the conformity analysis and other mobility analysis for the RTP. The 2016 RTP will be analyzed using the activity-based model. Local jurisdictions are more likely to use the trip-based model vs. the activity-based model in the short term. The activity-based model gives us better information on how people travel, why, what and how to be more effective in regards to the congestion, emissions and VMT issues.

Status update on Phase 1: The Project was started in April 2009 and completed in May 2010. The goal of Phase 1 was to adapt the existing CEMDAP Model to produce an operational activity-based model for the SCAG Region. It was presented at the May 26th Modeling Task Force meeting. Phase 2 is on schedule, the consultant will improve the generation and location modules and update the joint activity tools that will enhance CEMDAP. In June 2011, there will be a final report and the Phase II effort will be completed.

The PowerPoint presentation is available at <http://www.scag.ca.gov/modeling/mtf/index.htm>

5.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

There was no Chair’s Report.

6.0 STAFF REPORT/INFORMATION SHARING

There was no Staff Report.

7.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next meeting of the Modeling Task Force will be held on November 24, 2010 at the SCAG offices in downtown Los Angeles at 9:30am.